

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Currently amended) A rack for carrying a boat comprising:
a pair of tower bodies, each body having a mechanism for attaching the body to
the top of an automobile,

a crossbar connected to the tower bodies, and
a pair of support members connected to the crossbar, each support member
having a base, a back wall, and a slope expanse forming a wedge shape and
creating an internal space, including an the expanse having an upper portion and a
lower portion for contacting a boat hull, and a ~~rib configuration including a~~ a curved load
rib, extending through the internal space and connecting the expanse to the base,
the load rib providing supporting to the lower portion of the expanse so that the upper
portion of the expanse is substantially more flexible than the lower portion to
accommodate different hull shapes.

16. (Currently amended) The rack of claim 15, wherein ~~the rib configuration~~
further includesing a spring rib extending through the internal space and
connecting the expanse to the back wall supporting the upper portion of the
expanse.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The rack of claim 15, wherein ~~each support member~~
has a the base that for each support member is substantially parallel to the crossbar,
and a ~~back wall connected to and extending generally perpendicular to the base.~~

19. (Currently amended) The rack of claim ~~18~~ 15, wherein the expanse, base,
back wall, and rib configuration are all formed of a single piece of material.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) A rack system for supporting a boat on top of a vehicle comprising a crossbar,

a pair of towers configured to attach the crossbar across a vehicle roof,

a wedge-shaped support device having a base substantially contained in a first plane substantially parallel to the vehicle roof when the support device is supporting a boat, a back wall extending approximately vertically upward from the base, a sloped face connecting the back wall and the base in position to contact a boat hull, the base, back wall, and sloped face forming a wedge-shaped internal space, and at least one flexible support rib extending through the internal space, connecting the sloped face to the base or the back wall, and

a fastening mechanism configured to attach the support device to the crossbar.

25. (New) The rack system of claim 24, wherein the support rib connects the sloped face to the back wall.

26. (New) The rack system of claim 24, wherein the support rib connects the sloped face to the base.

27. (New) The rack system of claim 24, wherein the support rib is at least partially curved.

28. (New) The rack system of claim 24, wherein the support device has a first support rib connecting the sloped face to the back wall, and a second support rib connecting the sloped face to the base.

29. (New) The rack system of claim 24, wherein each rib support has a two portions curving in opposite directions.

30. (New) The rack system of claim 24, wherein the each rib support is approximately S-shaped.